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December 17, 1977  
U. S. Geological Survey  
Carlsbad, N. M.

U. S. Department of Interior U. S. Geological Survey  
U. S. Geological Survey  
P. O. Box 1716  
Carlsbad, New Mexico 88220

ATTENTION: Mr. David R. Stewart, Deputy Mining Supervisor

Dear Mr. Stewart:

We are submitting, for your approval, a Mining and Reclamation Plan regarding a proposed Underground operation to be known as the "PW-2,3 Mine Project".

The site is located within the boundaries of the "Jackpile Mining Lease" operated by The Anaconda Company, granted by the Pueblo of Laguna, and lies within Section 33, Township 11 North, Range 5 West N.M.P.M., Valencia County, New Mexico.

This application is being made in order to conform with regulations as set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 30 - Mineral Resources, Geological Survey, Part 231.10 (c) and also Section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Protection Act of 1969.

The Anaconda Company will comply with all applicable Federal and/or State laws and regulations governing the PW-2,3 Mine Project.

#### General

The subject, PW-2,3 mine plan, is similar in scope to the approved P-9-2 mining plan, which was submitted in 1973. Please refer to our letter of September 18, 1973, and your letter of approval on February 9, 1974.

#### Description of Operations

The purpose of the proposed activity is to extract uranium ore as a scam type operation. One adit will be collared, at the location indicated on the enclosed 1" to 100' scale plan map. The adit will be driven to the ore areas as indicated.

The ore deposits are situated on the fringes of more concentrated ore zones, which were mined by open pit mining methods. Those remnant ore deposits are not being considered for open pit mining methods due to their close proximity to State Highway 279 and the Pagate village.

Ore reserves, calculated from surface drill holes, indicate about 36,500 tons in place, at an average grade of .269% U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub>. Actual ore recovery during mining is expected to result in a reduced figure from reserve estimates, due to anticipated adverse ground conditions near the pit perimeter.

The expected life of the mine operation is 1½ to 2 years from the scheduled starting date, February 1, 1977.

Enclosed are 5 prints each of PW-2,3 Proposed Mine Plan Map; scale: 1"=100". That map indicates the Underground Mine Development plan, detail of existing topography, and geographic reference points.

#### Mining Plans

The one Adit will be driven down grade about 460 feet to a proposed sump location, to elevations at or below the ore deposit. The Adit will continue about 1300 feet up grade, to the north and east, and break through to the open pit at 3 locations for ventilation.

A turn-out to the south will be driven down grade about 200 feet to a second sump. That drift will continue south an additional 450 feet, up grade, just below the ore deposit.

The mining will be accomplished by a combination of conventional drilling and blasting methods, and the utilization of an Alpine Miner, loaders and Underground trucks. Ground support will be maintained by conventional methods as rock bolts, netting, steel and/or timber sets, stulls and cribbing. The scope of operation is relatively small, and no surface subsidence is anticipated.

#### Surface Facilities

All buildings such as: office, supplies, maintenance and fuel or lubrication shed will be of a temporary nature and will be removed at the end of the operation.

Electric power will be generated at the site by portable equipment. ✓

#### Environmental Impact

No new roads will be required for the PW-2,3 Mine Project. Existing open pit roads will be utilized, and Underground traffic will conform to established traffic patterns. ✓

No ventilation shafts are planned for the operation, as the Adit will be open to the pit at four locations. Fans will provide air flow as required.

About 13,000 tons of waste are expected to be extracted from haulage drift development and up to another 3500 tons during stope development. That 16,500 tons will be placed in low areas near the Adit collar to prepare a temporary, surface, ore storage pad.

Environmental Impact (continued)

Mine water encountered is expected to be less than 50 G.P.M.

All water removed from the mine will be impounded in existing retention ponds in the open pit about 1200 feet east of the PW-2,3 Adit. No water pumped from the mine will be discharged off the property.

As previously indicated, no surface subsidence is expected as the ore deposits are thin and sporadic.

All mine openings will be sealed in accordance with U. S. Geologic Survey regulations at the end of mining.

Proposed Schedule

Please observe that the PW-2,3 Mine Project is scheduled to commence operations on February 1, 1977. Mine operations are expected to be completed by February 1, 1979 or two years after commencement of operations.

Conclusion


The PW-2,3 Mine Project is a relatively small underground mine operation. Even though it may be in some ways more advantageous to mine this area by open pit methods, this type of mining has not been seriously considered due to the close proximity to State Highway 279 and to the village of Paguate. Mining by underground methods will also eliminate the need to disturb any new ground since all surface activities will be confined to an existing, abandoned pit area.

The proposed waste dump area of the operation will be covered with backfill from the open pit operation, when underground mining is completed. There will be no adverse environmental impact. Anaconda will backfill and revegetate the area, and the underground operation will not be apparent within two years after completion of mining.

Your assistance toward approval of the PW-2,3 Mine Project is requested by The Anaconda Company.

Anaconda will provide additional information, maps, or details on request.

Very truly yours,



T. R. Beck  
General Manager